

## THE STAR QUALITY RATING SYSTEM IDENTIFIES DIFFERENT LEVELS OF CHILD CARE.

Most of Montana's child care facilities are in compliance with state regulations. But did you know that some are standouts in offering social, creative and cognitive development programs?

The Star Quality Rating system :

- improves the quality of care for all Montana children;
- provides parents with identifiable standards of quality;
- encourages child care providers to increase their level of quality;
- rewards quality care with higher compensation from the state.

### WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

Star Quality is a tiered system of four levels of care that can be identified by a logo decal. Every facility licensed or registered with the state of Montana will have a decal displayed at their facility. If you don't see it, ask the provider if they are participating in the program. Use this brochure to discover the provider's health and safety practices.



**BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

**For More Information Contact:**  
**Montana Department of Public Health**  
**and Human Services**  
**Early Childhood Services Bureau**  
**406-657-2067**  
**P.O. Box 202952**  
**Helena MT 59620-2952**

## How does your child care stack up?



# CHILD CARE HEALTH & SAFETY CHECK LIST



## **Child to staff ratio.**

How many staff members are overseeing the children?  
Are there enough to be attentive?

## **Hazard-free environment.**

Is play equipment safe and properly anchored?  
Is there proper fencing?  
Are water hazards minimized?  
Are small toys/choking hazards removed?  
Are cleaning supplies kept in locked cabinets?

## **Emergency, first aid & medication policies.**

Is medication stored and administered safely?  
What emergency and first aid policies are in place?

## **Criminal background checks.**

Has a criminal and protective services check been conducted on personnel?

## **Keeping children from exposure to illness.**

Is there a policy to keep sick children home?  
Are updated immunization records required?  
Are snacks well-balanced and nutritious?

## HOW TO FIND QUALITY CHILD CARE.

Child Care Resource and Referral agencies located throughout the state are designed to help parents find quality child care. You do not have to be a low income resident, or have other limitations, to be eligible for Child Care Resource and Referral assistance: they are there for everyone.

For more information about the Star Quality Child Care Rating System, contact the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, or your local Resource and Referral office. A list of Child Care Resource and Referral agencies is available on this web site:

[www.montanachildcare.com](http://www.montanachildcare.com)

or by calling:

1.866.750.7101